
Pandemic Influenza Planning and Preparedness— A School District's Perspective

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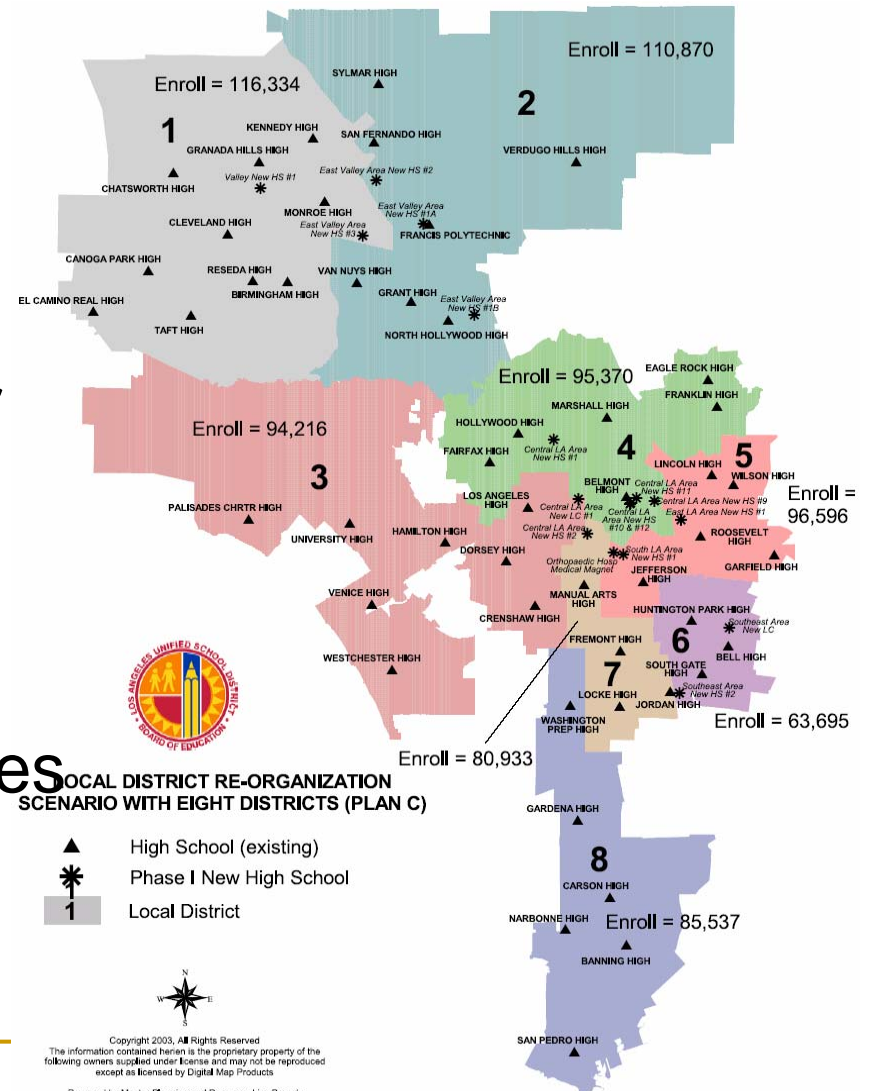
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Los Angeles Unified School District

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)

- One of over 80 public school districts in LA County
- LA City and several other cities within LAUSD boundaries
- ~725,000 students
- ~77,000 regular employees
- ~850 schools
- Educational context



School District (K-12) Pandemic Planning Checklist*

1. Planning and Coordination
2. Continuity of Student Learning and Core Operations
3. Infection Control Policies and Procedures
4. Communications Planning

➤ Selected task

- District's response (*in progress or completed*)
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 - *Needs/challenges*

* Tasks from HHS "School District (K-12) Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist"
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab5.html>

Planning and Coordination

- Address pandemic influenza preparedness as part of district's all-hazard emergency management plan...
 - ❑ Incorporating pandemic influenza preparedness into existing school operations, teams, and plans
 - Safe School Plan (school)
 - Crisis Teams (school and local district)
 - Emergency Management Committee (district)
 - Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)
 - *Need to address pandemic/biological scenario (vs. traditional disaster preparedness)*

Planning and Coordination

- Contribute to the local health department's operational plan for surge capacity of healthcare and other services to meet the needs of the community...
 - ❑ Develop an Agreement/MOU between the school district (e.g., Superintendent, COO, BOE, or other) and LAC (e.g., Health Officer, BOS) describing:
 - Organizational structure and lines of authority
 - Communications
 - Declaration of state of emergency

Planning and Coordination (continued)

- Funding of core personnel (Federal government funding, FEMA, vs. State funding through continued ADA)
- Closure and alternative use of school facilities (“neighborhood medical centers” vs. shelter or meeting space)
- *Need a template Agreement/MOU drafted for LAUSD; consider modification and use with other school districts in LA County*

Continuity of Student Learning and Core Operations

- Address the potential impact of a pandemic on student learning, school closings, and extracurricular activities...
 - District has experience addressing scenarios of excessive absenteeism (students and staff) and some experience with school closure, academic calendar modification, etc.
 - Staff strikes
 - Student walk-outs
 - Forced closure of schools due to natural disaster
 - *Need clarification of possible threshold for ordered school closure*
 - *Need to consider scenarios with alternative instruction techniques*
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Infection Control Policies and Procedures

- Implement effective infection prevention policies and procedures that help limit the spread of influenza...
 - ❑ Health promotion and disease prevention is promoted in schools
 - Health education material (Cover your cough, etc.)
 - Restroom initiative
 - Waterless hand cleansers
 - Liberal sick leave policies

Communication Planning

- Develop dissemination plan for communication with staff, students and families...
 - District has a number of possible methods to reach students, families and staff with information
 - Website/email
 - Blast fax (operations staff at schools)
 - TV station – KLCS Ch 58
 - Automated telephone messages
 - *Need to regularly test and improve communication between school district and county/state health authorities*
 - *Need to raise awareness and keep families/community updated of pandemic planning*

Discussion/Questions
